

Appl. No. 10/021,843

Amdt. Dated August 31, 2006

Reply to Office action of May 17, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) extension for a mobile computer lacking RFID functionality, comprising:

a standard modular attachment suitable for holding the mobile computer;

a battery carried by said standard modular attachment;

circuitry carried by said standard modular attachment and coupled to said battery for providing the ~~(RFID)~~ RFID functionality, said circuitry including an electromagnetic transceiver and a RFID air interface decoder; and

modular attachment interface connected to said standard modular attachment for selectively coupling the mobile computer to said circuitry such that the mobile computer has access to the RFID functionality provided by the said circuitry when the mobile computer is coupled to said modular attachment interface and is being held by said standard modular attachment, wherein said battery and said circuitry are separate from the mobile computer when the mobile computer is not being held by the standard modular attachment.

2. (previously presented) The RFID extension for the mobile computer lacking RFID functionality as in claim 1, further comprising a bar code scanner coupled to said modular attachment interface such that the mobile computer has access to data encoded in a bar code symbol scanned by said bar code scanner when the mobile computer is coupled to said modular attachment interface.

3. (currently amended) The RFID extension for the mobile computer lacking RFID functionality as in claim 1, ~~wherein the circuitry for providing the RFID functionality further~~

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~~comprises an electromagnetic transceiver.~~ further comprising an antenna loop connected to said standard modular attachment.

4. (currently amended) The RFID extension for the mobile computer lacking RFID functionality as in claim 3, ~~wherein the circuitry for providing the RFID functionality further comprises a RFID air interface decoder.~~ said standard modular attachment is a sled device.

5. (currently amended) A system, comprising:
a mobile computer lacking radio frequency identification (RFID) functionality and comprising a first modular attachment interface; and

a RFID extension for said mobile computer for selectively providing the RFID functionality to said mobile computer, said RFID extension comprising:

a standard modular attachment suitable for holding said mobile computer;

circuitry within said standard modular attachment configured to provide the RFID functionality, said circuitry including an electromagnetic transceiver and a RFID air interface decoder; and

a second modular attachment interface connected to said standard modular attachment for selectively coupling to said first modular attachment interface such that ~~the mobile~~ said mobile computer has access to the RFID functionality provided by said circuitry when said second modular attachment interface is coupled to said first modular attachment interface and said mobile computer is being held by said standard modular attachment, wherein said circuitry is separate from said mobile computer when said mobile computer is not be held by said standard modular attachment.

6. (previously presented) The system as in claim 5, wherein said RFID extension further comprises:

a bar code scanner coupled to said second modular attachment interface such that said mobile computer has access to data encoded in a bar code symbol scanned by said bar code

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scanner when said second modular attachment interface is coupled to said first modular attachment interface.

7. (currently amended) The system as in claim 5, ~~wherein the circuitry for providing the RFID functionality further comprises an electromagnetic transceiver.~~ further comprising an antenna loop connected to said standard modular attachment.

8. (currently amended) The system as in claim 7, wherein said ~~circuitry for providing the RFID functionality further comprises a RFID air interface decoder.~~ standard modular attachment is a sled device.

9. (previously presented) The system as in claim 7, further comprising a RFID tag that can be scanned by said RFID extension when said RFID extension and said RFID tag are separated by a distance greater than about twelve (12) inches.

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A system, comprising:
a mobile computer lacking radio frequency identification (RFID) functionality and comprising a first modular attachment interface and a radio module;
a RFID extension for said mobile computer for selectively providing the RFID functionality for said mobile computer, said RFID extension comprising:
a standard modular attachment suitable for holding said mobile computer;

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circuitry within said standard modular attachment for providing the RFID functionality, said circuitry including an electromagnetic transceiver and a RFID air interface decoder; and

a second modular attachment interface connected to said standard modular attachment for coupling to said first modular attachment interface such that ~~the mobile~~ said mobile computer has access to the RFID functionality provided by said circuitry when said second modular attachment interface is coupled to said first modular attachment interface and said mobile computer is being held by said standard modular attachment, wherein said circuitry is separate from said mobile computer when said mobile computer is not being held by said standard modular attachment;

a wired network; and

an access point, for transmitting transmission data from said wired network to said mobile computers via a wireless medium and receiving reception data from said mobile computers to said wired network via said wireless medium and also for forming a transmission area that includes a space where association to said access point is possible by said mobile computer.

15. (original) The system as in claim 14, wherein the transmission data and the reception data use a TCP/IP protocol, and wherein the wired network is connected to the internet.

16. (previously presented) The system as in claim 14, wherein the RFID extension further comprises:

a bar code scanner coupled to said modular attachment interface such that the mobile computer has access to data encoded in a bar code symbol scanned by said bar code scanner when the first modular attachment interface is coupled to said second modular attachment interface.

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17. (currently amended) The system as in claim 14, ~~wherein the circuitry for providing said RFID functionality comprises an electromagnetic transceiver.~~ further comprising an antenna loop connected to said standard modular attachment.

18. (currently amended) The system as in claim 17, wherein ~~the circuitry for providing said RFID functionality further comprises a radio frequency identification air interface decoder.~~ said modular attachment is a sled device.

19. (previously presented) The system as in claim 18, further a RFID tag that can be scanned by said RFID extension when said RFID extension and said RFID tag are separated by a distance greater than about twelve (12) inches.